

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants filed a Supplemental Amendment on November 22, 2010. The following Claim Listing incorporates those amendments, and is being provided for convenience. If those amendments have not yet been entered, it is respectfully requested that they be entered. No claims are being added, cancelled, or amended by way of the Claim Listing below.

Claim Listing

1. (Previously Presented) A network router to route Internet protocol (IP) data packets comprising:
 - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks that serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
 - a routing fabric configured to transfer an IP data packet between the plurality of trunk ports;
 - a routing table configured to use a destination IP address of the IP data packet to route the IP data packet by determining a composite output trunk; and
 - an output port selector configured to use the determined composite output trunk and information stored in a packet descriptor of the IP data packet to select an individual output port of the composite output trunk for the IP data packet, the output port selector comprising a forwarding table having plural entries to each individual output port and dynamically balancing load by weighting a number of entries to each individual output port, each entry in the forwarding table being dynamically rewritable to a different individual output port.
- 2-6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) A method of routing Internet protocol (IP) data packets in a network router comprising:
 - identifying a destination of an IP data packet;
 - using a destination IP address of the IP data packet to route the IP data packet by determining a composite output trunk;

using an output port selector for selecting an individual output port of the composite output trunk for the IP data packet based on the determined composite output trunk and information stored in a packet descriptor of the IP data packet, the output port selector comprising a forwarding table having plural entries to each individual output port and dynamically balancing load by weighting a number of entries to each individual output port, each entry in the forwarding table being dynamically rewritable to a different individual output port; and

forwarding the IP data packet via a routing fabric toward a common destination on the selected individual output port.

8–9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the IP data packet is routed under an Internet protocol.

11–14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The network router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein weighting the number of entries favors a shortest route to the destination.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein weighting the number of entries favors a shortest route to the destination.

17. (Previously Presented) The network router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a first dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table is configured to be rewritten with a second dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein a first dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table is configured to be rewritten with a second dynamically rewritable route in the forwarding table.

19. (Previously Presented) The network router of Claim 1 wherein the routes in the forwarding table are dynamically rewritable for a load to approach balance across the forwarding table.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein the routes in the forwarding table are dynamically rewritable for a load to approach balance across the forwarding table.
21. (Previously Presented) The network router of Claim 1 wherein the information stored in a packet descriptor includes an IP data packet header, a pointer to the IP data packet, an output trunk, and a route selector.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein the information stored in a packet descriptor includes an IP data packet header, a pointer to the IP data packet, an output trunk, and a route selector.